



THE BIG STORY

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION FROM THE MEDIA DESK

NIMC, NIPOST TO DEEPEN PARTNERSHIP

The National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) and Nigerian Postal Service (NIPOST) would now work together to amongst others, provide address verification and data capture services for Nigerians. The two agencies agreed on this during a courtesy visit by the NIPOST Management to the NIMC headquarters on Thursday, February 20, 2020 in Abuja.



From Left: The PMG/CEO, Dr. Ismail Adewusi, NIPOST and the DG/CEO, NIMC, Engr. Aliyu Aziz.

The Post Master General (PMG) Dr. Ismail Adewusi, informed that the reason for the visit was for NIPOST to seek partnership, interventions and to also deepen the synergy that had existed between the two agencies. Dr. Adewusi stated that the Postal Service was set to be remodeled and ultimately be unbundled for efficiency and self-sustenance. It is therefore imperative, he noted, "for the Service to pursue collaborative

NIMC as a key partner in our reform agenda".

"The new blueprint would see NIPOST become five independent commercial enterprises. They include NIPOST property and Development Company; NIPOST e-government

services company; NIPOST banking and insurance company; NIPOST e-commerce services company, and NIPOST transport and logistics services company" Adewusi added.

Speaking further, Dr. Adewusi stressed that the strength of postal operations in today's world is in the provision of banking and financial services. He also cited the Postal Savings Bank of China Co. Ltd. (PSBC) as example.

The Director General/CEO, NIMC, Engr. Aliyu Aziz who also spoke at the meeting, remarked that NIPOST and NIMC have been collaborative partners for years and it was time to commence implementation of previously discussed issues.

He further highlighted the significance of NIPOST and why its offices should be a one-stop-shop considering its spread across the country. "I believe NIPOST should be the place of convergence for

several transactions in Nigeria and obtainable across the world. Importantly also, we have to standardize our addressing system as well as encourage the use of Post Code. We want to see the possibility of having postcodes inscribed on the next round of cards to be printed".

In what could be described as renewed zest and vigor in the partnership, a six-man committee, charged with three cardinal mandates, was constituted at the meeting. The Committee would work out details on how best to deploy address verification services; share links for Application Programming Interface (API); and iron out modalities for the pilot phase of data capture services under the digital identity ecosystem.

The Committee was given two weeks to submit report on its mandate.

WORLD BANK APPROVAL: 5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

There was palpable elation when the news on World Bank approval of \$430 million funding for Nigeria's Digital Identity Ecosystem project frattered across the NIMC offices on February 18, 2020.

Here are 5 things you need to know about the Ecosystem:

1. On 12/09/2018, the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting chaired by President Muhammadu Buhari approved the strategic roadmap for Digital Identity Ecosystem in Nigeria.
2. The Ecosystem is a framework involving NIMC working with public and private service providing partners for the mass enrolment of Nigerians and legal residents into the NIDB.
3. The approval is aimed at increasing the number of persons who have a National Identification Number (NIN) to a figure reaching about 150 million in the next 3 - 5 years.
4. Registering all Nigerians is estimated to cost N50 billion (\$140 million) annually. It is being financed by the World Bank, Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the European Union (EU).
5. Enrolment of individuals remains free. However, licensed private vendors under the scheme would be paid on a *pay-per-play* basis. That is, they get paid for each successful enrolment of a person, complete with the issuance of a valid NIN.

ANTHONY JOSHUA ENROLLS FOR NIN



Nigerian-born British boxer, Joshua, has been enrolled and issued his National Identification Number (NIN) at the NIMC Lagos Office, February 18, 2020.

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